

I fully agree with this proposal, as the merits of CW are beneficial to communications on HF frequencies. With the number of Amateur Radio operators at an all time high, I don't beleive that we need to drop code testing to increase the numbers. CW is not a dying mode, nor is it irrelevant, and it is the 2nd most widely used mode in all of ham radio. It is understood world-wide. It offers the best signal to noise ratio of any mode, and most transcievers can be made at home, run at low power, and provide reliable communications. The mode is particularly useful in emergencies, and while it is true that many radio services have abandoned the morse code, it should remain as a viable, useful tool for communications. Keeping the very rudimentary 5 wpm requirement will help insure this. Most operators who use CW advance in speeds quickly and naturally so I feel that for an extra class license, 13 wpm should be required. The argument is often made that the CW requirement is a barrier to keeping good operators off the HF spectrum, yet, there is an unprecidented amount of hams in the country. 5 wpm is a very very rudimentary level, and really only tests recognition of the morse characters. It is not a goal that is difficult to achieve by anyone committed to improving their operating skills. Thank you for your time, and consideration.